vascular, respiratory and urinary systems, however, are bound with those on General Pathology.

As in previous editions, a variety of specialists have contributed units dealing with the body systems of their particular interest and specialized knowledge. While the organization and general approach are those of a textbook for students, this multiple authorship has resulted in sufficiently authoritative discussions in many areas so that the work can serve as a reference for graduates in pathology or in other specialties. Disadvantages of this system include some loss of unity of approach, and duplication in certain areas, but for most these will be overbalanced by the benefits provided by the multiple contributing authors.

Changes from previous editions include more comprehensive consideration of ultrastructural features of disease and a greater emphasis upon viral and parasitic disease as compared with bacterial infections. Divisions of special pathology that are covered more completely than in most other textbooks of pathology are those on the skin, the skeletal system, the nervous system and the organs of special senses.

The type is set in two columns; subject references are up-to-date; the illustrations in general are well chosen and adequately reproduced.

ALVIN J. COX, M.D.

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CURRENT DIAGNOSIS—A Biennial Volume of Clinical Diagnostic Methods and Evaluations—Edited by Howard F. Conn, M.D., Robert J. Clohecy, M.D., and Rex B. Conn, Jr., M.D. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, Pa., 1966. 843 pages, $19.00.

This book represents a newly introduced counterpart to the popular series of "Current Therapy" volumes. As indicated by its editors, it was conceived "in an effort to provide the physician with a convenient, authoritative source of information on today's best and most up-to-date methods of arriving at a precise understanding of the nature of a patient's illness." To achieve this goal, the symptoms and signs, physical findings, complications, laboratory tests and other procedures helpful in identifying a certain disease are epitomized by some 285 authorities. As might be expected in a compendium of this magnitude and with so many contributors, there are gaps. These stem in large part from necessary lack of depth and from individual variations in approach to diagnosis. Those who wish detail or desire fundamental references to basic diagnostic studies will not find them here. Nor will this collection of diagnostic features be of great help unless the physician has first determined for himself the nature of the disease which he suspects his patient to have. Despite these limitations, the practicing physician should find this volume a valuable reference source against which to check his diagnostic impressions and the studies he plans to make.

J. EDWARD BERK, M.D.

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OPERABLE HEART DISEASE—Pathophysiology, Diagnosis, and Treatment—Howard D. Sirak, M.D., Associate Professor of Surgery and Head, Cardiovascular Service, Division of Thoracic Surgery, Ohio State University Hospitals, Columbus, Ohio. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1966. 130 pages, $12.50.

This monograph is a hurried review of the common cardiac lesions amenable to surgery. In the foreword it is indicated that the book is primarily intended for students, interns and residents. A book of this nature should, therefore, be complete, concise, and interesting. Certain chapters, specifically those involved with the postoperative care and fetal circulation do accomplish these ends. The brevity of the text on acquired and congenital problems fails to provide adequate discussion of the disease, differential diagnoses, electrocardiographic and catheterization abnormalities, and reasons for submitting such patients to surgery. There is some confusion in anatomical relationships through attempts to standardize all diagrams. The reviewer objects to over-simplification and colloquialisms such as hi, lo, and ducti. The book does provide a quick reference for the types of anomalies encountered at the operating table. To be important to the student, intern or resident, additional texts must be at hand in order to interpret some of the statements of the author.

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CARCINOMA OF THE ALIMENTARY TRACT—Etiology and Pathogenesis—Edited by Walter J. Burdette, A.B., A.M., Ph.D., M.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Surgery and Director of the Laboratory of Clinical Biology, University of Utah College of Medicine; Surgeon-in-Chief, Salt Lake County Hospital; Chief Surgical Consultant, Veterans Administration Hospital, Salt Lake City, Utah. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1965. 233 pages, no price quoted.

There were 33 participants in this symposium of which 19 contributed a chapter to this book. Of the 28 chapters including the preface, 11 are devoted to a consideration of human alimentary tract neoplasms and seven to similar neoplasms in laboratory animals. The first five chapters consider the epidemiology of cancer of the esophagus, stomach, and large bowel in the Americas, U.S.S.R., Poland, and among the migrant populations of a number of countries. The striking variation in the incidence of G.I. tract cancer raises far more questions than are answered. Why, for example, is there a large socio-economic gradient for cancer of the esophagus, a lesser one for the stomach, and none for the large intestine and rectum? Why are all three forms of cancer more common among urban populations than in rural areas and why are there variations in the incidence of cancer of the esophagus, stomach, and large bowel varying with occupation and industry? The wide variations in the incidence of these cancers would seem to suggest environmental etiologies. If this were shown to be true, the possibility of prevention of many of these neoplasms becomes an appealing objective. When wide variations and incidences of these cancers occurs within a limited geographical region among rather isolated populations, genetic etiology may be of importance.

It is interesting that mice and rats, which have been close associates of man for centuries, rarely show cancers of the gastro-intestinal tract although other cancers may occur fairly frequently. One of the most interesting reports of spontaneous cancer of the glandular stomach of a rodent is dealt with by Katherine Snell. These cancers occurred in the African multimammate mouse, the Mastomys, and were first reported by Oettlé in 1957. The latter author gave an incidence of adenocarcinoma of the glandular stomach of these animals of 41 per cent among those dying of natural causes. Snell reports that the Mastomys at the National Institutes of Health showed carcinomas or precarcinoma lesions in 48 per cent of the males and 23 per cent in females. It may be significant that the diet fed to Oettlés' Mastomys contained 9.2 per cent of peanut meal which is frequently infected with Aspergillus flavus and this produces aflatoxins which are known to be potent G.I. tract carcinogens. Snell makes no mention of the diet of the N. I. H. colony of Mastomys. Tumors of the alimentary tract of hamsters and cats are discussed and experimental studies reported. The conclusion is reached that the high incidence of alimentary tract tumors in domestic cats may be due to environmen-